A

POEM,

ON THE

MERCHANTS

New beautifying the

STATUE

OF

KING CHARLES the IId.

In the ROYAL-EXCHANGE.

With many HISTORICAL REMARKS to GEORGE I.

In TWO PARTS.

By the Author of the *True Briton.*

Virtutem—ſublatam ex oculis Quærimus. HOR.

Juſtice requires, that due Reſpect be paid
To the known Virtues of the Royal Dead.

LONDON,

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A

POEM,

On the Merchants new beautifying the Statue,

Of King CHARLES the IId.

WHERE Thames with Wealth immenſe and Beauty flows,
And Britain's *Glory* * all her Grandeur ſhows,
A Fabrick ſtands of celebrated Fame;
Commerce its Buſineſs; and *Exchange* its Name.
Above with Statues grac'd of Monarchs dead,
Whilſt Worth, and Wealth below the Pavement tread.
Diſtinguiſh'd ſee, your *once lov'd Charles* again,
And *call* forth *all* the *Bleſſings* of *his* Reign,
Remembrance juſt, Reflections wiſe produce;
And Actions paſt ſhould be of future Uſe.
Who beſt promoted Trade *wiſe Merchants* know,
And by this *grateful* Act their *Wiſdom* ſhow.
Shipping improv'd, Commerce extended o'er,
Regions unknown, not even nam'd before,

Verſe 2. * *London.*

† The wiſeſt *Laws* that ever yet were made,
‡ The greateſt Bulwark Liberty e'er had,
Whilſt Plenty, Peace, and Truth with joyous Hand,
Diffus'd *full Bleſſings* o'er the *happy* Land.
If long Deſcent from Kings can merit Fame,
Ten *Centuries* ‖ may ſure that Merit claim.
Such is the *Stuarts* Right—But ſmall that Praiſe
Compar'd with *Fame* their virtuous Actions raiſe.
Duteous to Truth we'll tell thoſe Deeds alone,
Which we *to them*, and they *for us* have done:
And ſhall their Fame be buried with their Duſt;
From *James Pacifick* down to *James* the *Juſt?*
On all their *Race* immortal Scandals fly?
And *all* their *gracious Acts* unnotic'd die?
Forbid it Heav'n—ſome *generous* Genius raiſe,
To ſhew their Worth—Till then accept this Praiſe,
Such humble Verſe; as may be thought to flow,
From length of Years, oppreſs'd with length of Woe,
No venal Verſe, but what all duteous ſprings,
From love of *Virtue*, and from *love* of Kings.

Verſes

V. 3, 7. *October* 23, 1667, the King laid the firſt Stone of the Foundation of the Royal Exchange. In 1684, a famous and noble Statue was erected to (King *Charles*'s) Honour in the Middle, or Center of the Royal Exchange: It conſiſted of an exact Figure of his Majeſty, done in Grey Marble, erected upon a curious Pedeſtal of the ſame; and the Statue was in the Garb and Habit of a *Roman* Cæſar, at the Expence of the *Hamborough* Company, Coſt 500*l.* See *Eachard* 1044, or *Maitland*, p. 466, both mention the Inſcription on the Pedeſtal.

V. 15. † 22 and 29 *Charles* II.

V. 16. ‡ The Habeas Corpus Act.

Verſes which Weep, for what *one* Age hath ſeen,
* Two exil'd Kings; a murder'd King and Queen,
Accurſed Facts! *England*'s eternal Shame,
Heathens would loath—and Nature dreads to name.
But Heav'n all gracious to frail Man we find,
Will Mercy grant to the repentant Mind;
Of which bleſs'd Attribute ne'er more was given
Than to the *Stuarts* by all bounteous Heav'n,
Who to their Subjects eminently *good*;
Repeated Treaſons ſpare,—nay, *Royal* Blood,
But view the gracious Acts which they have done,
What *England was*, when they came to the Throne,
And you'll forgive ſome Frailties of their own.
When cruel *Henry* rul'd with Iron Rod,
Henry. Treated alike his Subjects and his God.
Royal Prerogative he ſtrain'd ſo high,
That ſcarce we knew the Name of Liberty,

V. 20. ‖ Mr. *Innes* in Preface to his Critical Eſſay, p. 18, gives a fair Account of the Royal Deſcent of the *Stuarts* for eleven Hundred Years, and Mr. *Cart*, Vol. 3, p. 705, ſhows how all the lineal Rights which the *Britiſh*, *Saxons*, *Normans*, *Pictiſh* and *Scotiſh* Kings ever had to any Part of *Great Britain* concentered in *James*.

V. 36. * King *Charles* and his two Sons, and *Mary* Queen of *Scots* his Grand-Mother.

V. 50. What relates to the old Tenures, Houſe of Commons, Courts of Star Chamber, and High Commiſſion will be conſidered in the Remarks; but Mr. *Hume* ſays, theſe Courts alone were ſufficient to lay the whole Kingdom at the Mercy of the Prince, p. 116.

V. 53 Three Preachers—condemned for Hereticks, and three others who were attainted for denying the King's Supremacy, were coupled with them in the Hurdles that carried them to be burnt.

Old Tenures then on Property were hard,
And Commons (ſacred now) of ſmall regard,
† Wide Oppoſites in Faith at once expire,
Bound in ſame Chains, and burn in ſelf ſame Fire.
Small then the Difference was found between,
An *unlov'd Subject*, and an *unlov'd Queen*,‡
Each bleeding felt the ſad Effects of Rage,
Which Beauty, Years or Truth, could ne'er aſſwage.

Elizabeth. And when the celebrated Daughter came,
She was more *gracious* but too much the ſame,
Who to the Hardſhips of the former Reign,
Added *Monopolies*, of *Trade* the Bane,
High *Courts* commiſſion'd kept the Land in Awe;
And Pow'r diſpenſing abrogated Law,
Whilſt the *hard* Sentence on a ſiſter Queen;
Blaſts *all* the *Laurels* of her length of Reign,
And the dread Miſchiefs which in *Ireland* roſe;
Her Arms, Her Arts, Her Wealth could ne'er compoſe.

James. That Glory was reſerv'd for *James*'s Reign
(As great a Glory as a KING cou'd gain.)

To

V. 55. † A. D. 1540, *Eachard* names them, p. 293: *Henry*'s Cruelty putting two Queens and others to Death will ſcarce be diſputed.

V. 63. How Queen *Elizabeth* oppreſſed the People with Monopolies, and how King *James* eaſed them. See *Hume*, p. 16.

V. 68. The Wars in *Ireland* in the three laſt Years coſt *Elizabeth* 1,200,000*l.* and exhauſted the Exchequer, beſides a Debt near 400,000.

V. 70. *James*—by a ſteddy well regulated Plan, in the Space of nine Years, according to Sir *John Davis*, made greater Advances, towards the Reformation of that King-

To do THE RIGHT, make cruel Diſcord ceaſe,
And bleſs two Kingdoms with a laſting Peace,
No wicked Wars he wag'd, nor thought it juſt,
For private Good, to break his publick Truſt,
No Subſidies to Foreigners were paid,
No heavy Taxes on the Nation laid,
Each Owners Lands each Owner free poſſeſs'd
And the lov'd Author of that Bleſſing bleſs'd.
From boiſt'rous War let others riſe to Fame,
For Pride, or Profit ſet the World on Flame,
Cauſe Seas of Blood, and Orphans Tears to flow,
Spread Ruin round, and epidemic Woe:
Lay Nations waſte, with each diſtracting ill,
Hell can invent, or Human Nature feel,
Be thine the Bleſſings of the peaceful Reign,
True Liberty beſtow, true Faith maintain,
Her vacant Sees, no more ſhall *Scotia* mourn
Her vacant Sees, ſhall to their Lords return,
Albion ſhall taſte of Bliſs before unknown,
Unfelt, but when a *Stuart* fills the Throne,
Monopolies recall'd ſhall fully prove
How juſtly you have gain'd your People's Love.

From

Kingdom, than had been made in the 440 Years, which had elapſed ſince the Conqueſt was attempted. *Hume*, p. 43.

V. 78. The Gentry too of that Age were engaged in no Expences, except that of Country Hoſpitality; no Taxes were levied, no Wars waged, no Attendance at Court expected, no Bribery or Profuſion required at Elections. Could Human Nature ever reach Happineſs, the Condition of the *Engliſh* Gentry, under ſo mild and benign a Prince might Merit that Appellation. Ibid. p. 120, ſee more p. 127—8

From Deeds like theſe the greater Joy you'll find
By giving Peace, than Ruin to Mankind.
Nor leſs the *Son*, the *Parents* Paths purſu'd
Charles. To *keep* us *happy*, and to make us good;
Stain'd with no *Vice*, to every good inclin'd,
Firm to the *Church*, and *Friend* of Human-kind.
* Great, Good and Juſt—If Heav'n cou'd ever mean
Earth the Reward of Good—He'd happy been,
Drawn into Wars, and in thoſe Wars betray'd,
Charg'd with high Crimes, which they that charg'd them made.
Still granting Liberties unknown before,
The more he granted they ſtill aſk'd the more.

And

V. 94. What chiefly renders the Reign of *James* memorable, is, the commencement of the *Engliſh* Colonies in *America*, eſtabliſhed on the nobleſt Footing, that has been known, in any Age or Nation, Ibid p. 133. And ſuch Advantages, have Commerce and Navigation, reaped from theſe Eſtabliſhments, that more than half of the *Engliſh* Shipping is at preſent, computed to be employed in carrying on the Traffic with the *American* Settlements. p. 135.

V. 103. The King granted them the Petition of Right, the Triennial Bill, both received with the utmoſt Joy—He redreſſed all their Grievances, but *Le Clerc* juſtly obſerves that, " If there have been Kings, as doubtleſs there have been many, who have deceived their Subjects; there never was one whom his Subjects did ſo frequently, and cruelly deceive as *Charles* the firſt." *Eachard*, p. 484, and Mr. *Walpole*, (in his ſpiteful Catalogue of Royal and noble Authors, *&c.*) aſſures us " That it is certain, that the ingenious Mr. *Hume* has ſhown, that, both King *James* and King *Charles* acted upon Precedents of Prerogative which they found eſtabliſhed,"‖ *(then they did nothing unjuſtly)* and that " thoſe Patriots *Hampden*, *Pym*, *&c.*) did not attack King *Charles* ſo much for *Violation* of the *Law*, as to oblige him to ſubmit to the Amendment of it. That " the putting † to Death that Sovereign, could by no Means be the guilty Part of the Oppoſition; if a King deſerves to be oppoſed by Force of Arms, he deſerves the Death—with more to the ſame Purpoſe—

So tho' a King acts according to Law, if he alters it not as they pleaſe to direct, he may be oppoſed and beheaded—Kings ſhould beware and guard againſt ſuch principles.

* Montroſs.

† Ibid. p. 69.

And by ſuch Treach'ries have fully ſhown,
They want not to Reform, but to Dethorne.
Pretend Religion, by mad Zeal betray'd
Murder the Prieſts, the Church in Ruin laid,
In Errors Maze ten Thouſand Ways they run,
From Faith to Faith ſtill wander—Right in none.
Regard not Vows, or Oaths, or Fields of Blood,
The Sin of Sacrilege, or Nations good.
Choſe by the People, by the People paid,
Their ſacred Truſt, the Wretches ſtill betray'd.
On all Occaſions ſought their private End
That Liberty deſtroy'd they ſhould defend,
The Gentry plunder'd, from their Houſes torn,
The Peers aboliſh'd; Commons—common Scorn.
And to compleat the Nations laſt Diſgrace,
Murder their King; and then Abjure his Race,
Such dire Effects ſucceſsful Rebels bring,
On Layman, Prieſts; the State; the Church; the King.
O! could I ever Veil, that Age of Shame;
Crimes not to be deſcrib'd, too black to Name.
Which we, and ours, muſt ever juſtly Mourn,
'Till ſtrict Repentance does their Crimes atone.
But Heav'n in Pity to the Good and Brave,
Sends *Charles* again the *ſinking* State to ſave;
At whoſe Return Factions, and Errors fly,
And *Church* and *State* are bleſs'd with double Joy.
Thus when the Sun hath long been overcaſt,
Or *dread* Eclipſes o'er pale Nations paſt;
When from thoſe ſhades he ſprings again to Sight,
The Darkneſs paſt, now doubles the delight.

So *Charles*, our Evils paſt, new Comfort brings,
Charles, the beſt *natur'd*, beſt *belov'd* of Kings,
How ſoon he Pardons all the Miſchiefs done,
How he remits great Sums due to the Crown,
How ſoon from *dread* of Armies ſet us free;
And from *Old Tenures* gives us Liberty,
How ſoon the Church Reſtores ~~a~~ pure again,
And gives true Chriſtian Prelates all his Reign,
How ſoon to *Trade* extends his *knowing* Care,
And in the Joys of *Peace*, provides for *War*.
* How to build Ships, and dreadful Ord'nance caſt,
Inſtructs the Artiſts, and rewards their haſte,
Let every loyal *Britiſh* Heart rehearſe,
In grateful Proſe, or never dying Verſe.
Who but *this Charles* could grov'ling Souls refine,
And as new made, with poliſh'd Luſtre Shine;
Who by his Genius Remedy cou'd find,
To cure ſuch wild Diſorders of the Mind.
How great *he* Shines when *Plague*, and *Fire*, and *War*,
Demand his Courage, and require his Care,

His

V. 135. Moſt of the Things here mentioned, are ſo well known, they need no particular Proof.

V. 143. Mr. *Ralph* obſerves,——In thoſe Times, ſuch as had Money, employed it in Trade; and the modern Method of lending it to the Public, in order, to make a livelihood of the public Neceſſities, was found impracticable, p. 60—Again,—The Court of England now (in 1664) thinking the Intereſt of Commerce to be more merely and intimately their Concern, than the Balance of Power, Ibid. p. 108.

England had her then full Meaſure of Happineſs, as far as it depended on Wealth, and the full enjoyment of it, p. 844.

V. 145. Both *Hume* and *Eachard*, mention his great Skill in Mechanics and Naval Affairs, ſee *Hume*, Vol 2, p. 160. In Hiſtory, Mathematics, and Navigation, *Eachard*, p. 767. * *Waller*.

V. 150. I ſhall cloſe the Notes on this Reign, with the Words of the excellent Lord *Lanſdown*, Vol. 2, p. 269.

His Subjects Sorrows tenderly he feels,
And what admits a Cure he *wiſely* heals;
His Country's Cauſe moſt glorioufly maintains
Againſt *falſe Dutch*, *falſe French*, and *treacherous Danes*,
No Wars he wag'd for *Germans poor*, and *proud*,
Nor mortgag'd *ours*, for *other* Nations Good,
But Oh! how great our *lov'd Britannia* ſhone,
When *James* triumphant led her *Navies* on,
For Cauſes and for Conqueſts all our own,
And by one ever *glorious* Victory,
Secur'd *our* Trade, and *Empire* o'er the Sea,
But other tender Cares his thoughts employ,
To give his People *Eaſe*, and Liberty,
* Whilſt by two Acts he grants his Subjects more,
Than all the Kings that *ever* reign'd before,
May they for Ages ſtill untouch'd remain,
Two glorious Monuments of his *good* Reign;
But other Bleſſings of a different Kind,
They *living* gave, and *dying* left behind,

The

I behold a King, with a guilty Nation proſtrate at his Feet, raiſing his Enemies from the Ground, taking them by the Hand, as if they never had offended. Sour hypocritical Zeal, and Grimace, turned as by Inchantment, all at once into good humour, and open hearted Chearfulneſs: Majeſty, and Splendor in the Court, Decency and Diſcipline in the Church; Dignity and Condeſcenſion in the Nobility, Plenty and Hoſpitality in the Country, Opulence in the City, Good-nature and Good-manners amongſt all Ranks, and Conditions of Men: Trade flouriſhing, Navigation extended, Manufactures improved, Arts, and Sciences encouraged, Wit abounding, the Muſes reſtored, the Gown reſpected, and above all, Liberty, Sir, Liberty ſecured to perpetuity, by that great Bulwark the Habeas Corpus Act. This Sir, is the Scene which preſents itſelf to me, and I look back with Pleaſure upon it.

V. 146. In this Engagement, the Earl of *Falmouth*, Lord *Muſkerry*, and Mr. *Boyle*, all three fell at one Cannon-ſhot near the Duke, who in the Royal *Charles* was

moſt

The *Bible Engliſh'd well*, gives *James* juſt Fame,
And the *New River* widely ſpreads his Name.
To them the *Park* its various Beauties owes,
Park. Woods, Waters, Walks, with every Charm that flows
From Art, or Nature, which ſeem here at ſtrife,
How beſt to give each Grace, and Uſe of Life,
Each Charms alone; but all does each excell,
Which *Waller*'s Muſe * deſcribes, and paints ſo well.
A ſingle Flower great Beauties often ſhows
But Noſe-gays made of many more diſcloſe,
To others leave of little Souls the Cares,
The ſweeping length of Gown; the taſte of Aers,
Of thoughtleſs Gazers every ſenſeleſs Scene,
Who only come to *ſee*, and *to be ſeen*,
Whilſt gen'rous Minds their wiſer Thoughts employ,
To *give*, and to *receive* the *ſocial* Joy,
With decent Freedom openly impart,
The juſt Reflections of the *honeſt* Heart,
Scenes which may eaſe the Pangs of mourning Minds
Whence black Deſpair, ſome pleaſing Hours oft find,
Whilſt Thouſands Health *preſerve*, or Health *repair*,
By *Nature*'s Phyſick; *Exerciſe* and *Aer*,
When ſetting Suns ſhoot but a ſickly Gleam,
Juſt faintly touch, and die upon the Stream,
The Winds all languiſhing as out of Breath,
And ſoftly waſting Sigh themſelves to death,
The beauteous Sex in all their Charms appear,
The Nation's *Glory*; and the Nation's *Care*.

Beau-

moſt engaged with ſeveral *Dutch* Ships, the *Dutch* Admiral and three Flag Officers were killed, and about 13 Commanders and above 2000 Men taken Priſoners.
V. 186. *Waller*.

Beauty and Virtue; Virtues muſt inſpire,
And guide to glorious Acts, our *Native* Fire.
What will not Beauty, Wit and Virtue move;
When join'd? Then Wiſdom well agrees with Love,
Whilſt ſtudious Souls their Thoughts ſtill higher raiſe;
To Love Divine, and their great Maker's Praiſe.
And as they all theſe various Joys poſſeſs,
The bounteous Authors of each Bleſſing bleſs.

James II. But *James* in Peace his rightful Throne aſcends
And all Mankind are *then* his faithful Friends.

Courted by all abroad; careſs'd at home;
Vows, Oaths, and promiſing Addreſſes come.
Diſſenters *falſe*! to Heav'n exalt his Praiſe,
And *treacherous* Prieſts above a Trajan raiſe.
But ſoon deſert him in his utmoſt need,
Betray'd by thoſe his former Bounty fed,
To give to Merit Praiſe, becomes the Brave;
Then let him have that Juſtice in the Grave.
Faithful to all Alliances he made,
Of all our numerous Kings beſt *ſkill'd* in Trade,
The beſt Oeconomiſt e'er ſat on Throne,
Careful of publick Wealth; *free* of his own.
The only King ſupplies refus'd we find,
The only King who left no Debts behind.
Honeſt himſelf, he Oaths too much believ'd,
Oh! *how* he truſted! *how* was he deceiv'd!

Monarchs

V. 213. See *Eachard.*

214. Dr. *Kennet* in his Preface to his Tranſlation of *Pliny*'s Panegyric mentions, King *James*'s great Virtues, and prefers him far above *Trajan.*

V. 221. Part of theſe two Lines are Mr. *Dryden*'s.

222. He was particularly Kind to the *French* Proteſtants, when driven out of *France*;——and when he heard Mr. *Wycherley* was in Priſon, cleared his Debts.

Monarchs beware in whom you place your Truſt,
Haters of Kings, to Kings will ne'er be juſt.
Truſt not Addreſſers: mind not what they ſay,
They'll flatter, promiſe, vow, ſwear, and betray.
Unhappy *James*, found out *this Truth* too late,
Who promis'd moſt, moſt puſh'd his cruel Fate.
By changing *Faith*, falſe *S—rl—d* deceives;
By *James* firſt rais'd; baſe *Ch——ll James* firſt leaves
Pope, *Spaniards*, *German*, *William*, *Dutch* agree,
To *drive* out *James* to *keep out Popery*.
Paſs but ſome *little Months* theſe Pow'rs again,
By *Oaths*, and *Arms*, the Papacy maintain.
Can Acts like theſe with any Faith agree;
Or is Religion only Policy!
Such Acts may fit a faithleſs *foreign* Reign,
Fruitful of Ill—and Source of all Prophane.
When Wars accurs'd, Millions of Money coſt;
Millions of Lives; (the Hope of Ages) loſt.
By ſad Experience taught thoſe *Ills* of War,
Nations unborn muſt feel, and angry bear,
And *Native* Kings with Sorrow ſigh to hear.
From wicked Luſt of Pow'r what Miſchief ſprings!
Friends, Fathers we betray; nay murder Kings,
When cruel Fury with deſtroying Hands,
Aboliſh'd Biſhops, Maſſacres commands;

In-

V. 240. See the firſt Article of the Grand Alliance, never to make Peace with *Lewis* XIV. untill he had made Reparation to the Holy See, &c.

V. 248. Biſhop *Burnet*, and others frequently mention how little Regard King *William* ſhewed for Religion, or the Church, and what Profaneneſs and Wickedneſs prevailed then.

V. 258. All the Biſhops were deprived in *Scotland*; —and the Arch-biſhop of *Canterbury*, and ſix more Biſhops in *England*. There

Involves whole Nations in a Scene of Blood,
Regards not Man or Prieſt, nor Church, nor God.
Who will not Wonder, when ſuch Things he ſees
Good *Charles* ſhould bleed, and——die in Peace.
But ceaſe to ſearch; 'tis not for Man to know,
Till Heav'n hereafter ſhall its Juſtice ſhow.
But *Anna* comes, whoſe *Piety* will laſt,
Q. *Ann.* When all the Glories of her Arms are paſt.
Firm to the Church,—fond of her Country's Good,
With every Virtue grac'd; averſe to Blood.
So lov'd ſhe liv'd, ſhe never had a Foe;
But thoſe to *Stuarts* and to *Monarchs* too.
Drawn into Wars, contriv'd for wicked Ends,
For rival *Dutch*; for treacherous *German* Friends.
New Taxes added for each Battle won,
The more ſucceſsful ſtill the more undone;
Whilſt nor the Wars, nor Conqueſts were our own.
The Error ſeen, ſhe guides aright her Eyes,
Bids Wars to ceaſe; and beauteous Churches riſe.
* Rich Induſtry ſits ſmiling on the Plains,
And Peace and Plenty tell a *Stuart* Reigns.
From which lov'd Race behold a Hero riſe;
With honeſt Heart, clear Head, and piercing Eyes,
Adorn'd

There was a terrible Maſſacre at *Glenio* in cold Blood of all there. And Biſhop *Burnet* tells us, ſix Thouſand were deſigned to have been cut off, and that King *William* twice ſigned an Order for it.

V. 267. *Smollet* obſerves, that there was not one Perſon executed for Treaſon during all her Reign. She gave 100,000*l.* per Annum, out of her own Income to eaſe her People.

V. 271. King *William* had projected the Scheme of theſe Wars, and in purſuance of the Treaties of Partition, by which King *William*, the *Dutch*, and *French*, agreed to divide the *Spaniſh* Monarchy againſt their conſent, which both Houſes of Parliament highly cenſured; and Dr. *Swallet* juſtly ſays, was in Violation of every Law Human and Divine, p. 169.

* V. 278. *Pope.*

Adorn'd his Perſon with each manly Grace,
With all the Mercy of the *Stuarts* Race.
To cloſe our Wounds extend his *healing* hand,
And by his Wiſdom ſave a *ſinking* Land.
From *Loads* of Taxes give his people eaſe,
And crown that Bleſſing, with a laſting Peace.
To Arts polite his Royal Hand extend,
The Muſes Subject, and the Muſes Friend.
The Wiſh of Nations—by *juſt Heav'n deſign'd*
To ſave Britannia, and to bleſs Mankind.

V. 283. *N. B.* The Author of this is convinced a Method may be found, to eaſe the Taxes of every Subject conſiderably, without laying on any new ones, or doing any Injuſtice to any Perſon whomſoever; and even to raiſe two Millions if neceſſary.

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Erratum. Verſe. 21. for *is* read *was* the *Stuarts* Claim.

And You wise B—te who from the Stuarts came,
By Acts like theirs, now vindicate the Name,
~~From loads of Taxes~~ go
Banish Corruption, England's worst Disease,
Bid Persecution dire in Scotland cease,
And give to all, the long'd for Useful Peace.
Then we may happy be, as once before;
We cannot wish; Kings cannot grant us more.